

leg defines a maximum width location rearwardly of the opening, and wherein the legs are separated from each other by the opening and the open rearward end of the opening, and wherein the concave edge defining the closed forward end of the opening defines inner facing edges of the legs;

wherein each leg includes a generally planar upper surface and an opposite generally planar lower surface, and wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces includes a plurality of substantially cylindrical nipples extending therefrom, wherein each nipple extends along a longitudinal axis substantially parallel to the plane of the surface from which the nipple extends, and wherein each nipple terminates in a planar surface substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis along which the nipple extends.

29 10. An artificial bait structure, comprising:

a head having a forward end and a rearward end;
first and second legs extending rearwardly from the rearward end of the head, wherein each leg defines an inner edge and an outer edge and terminates at a rearward end, and wherein the inner edge of each leg includes a generally linear portion adjacent the rearward end of the leg, wherein the generally linear portions of the legs face each other, and wherein the inner edge of each leg further includes an outwardly curved concave arcuate portion adjacent the rearward end of the head extending toward the outer edge of the leg forwardly of the linear portion, wherein the outwardly curved concave arcuate portions of the leg inner edges cooperate to define a void area having a concave configuration between the legs rearwardly of the head, wherein each leg defines a first width adjacent the head and a second width greater than the first width at a location rearwardly of the void area; and
a flexible projection extending rearwardly from the rearward end of each leg

15 in a direction substantially parallel to the generally linear portion of the leg. --

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Wilson. Claims 3, 5, 16-18, 26, 29-31 and 34-38 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Parman U.S. Patent 5,009,024. Claim 18 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Adam in view of Freeman. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson and Parman in view of Adam. Claims 6-15 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson and Parman, and further in view of Koonz et al. Claims 2, 27 and 28 were allowed.

The applied references other than Parman have been discussed in previous response, and further discussion is believed unnecessary.

By this amendment, the claims are amended in a manner believed to patentably define over the references, along the lines suggested by the Examiner on page 6 of the Office Action.

Specifically, claim 17 is amended to state that the convex outer edge of each leg and the generally linear portion of each leg intersect to define the rearward end of the leg. The newly cited Parman reference discloses an artificial lure in the shape of a frog, wherein the feet of the frog, shown at 60, 61, have a width greater than the thigh portions 70, 71. In Parman, however, the feet 60, 61 extend outwardly from the point of termination of the convex outer edge. In direct contrast, the present invention includes an arcuate outer edge which intersects with a rearwardly extending inner edge, which may be linear, to define the rearward end of each leg, with the area of increased width being located forwardly of the rearward end of each leg.

As noted, claim 17 specifies that the generally linear portion of each leg intersects with the convex outer edge to define the rearward end of the leg. Claim 17 further specifies that each leg defines a first width adjacent the head and a second width greater than the first width at a location rearwardly of the void area defined by the inner edges of the legs. The cited references, with particular attention to Parman, do not show or suggest this structure, and accordingly claim 17 is believed allowable.

Claim 18 is amended to specify that the inner edges of the legs define facing rearward sections which extend in a forward-rearward direction and which are located rearwardly of the void area. The rearward section of each leg is defined as intersecting the convex outer edge to define the rearward end of the leg. Claims 26, 29 and 32 are amended to include similar language. For the same reasons noted with respect to claim 17, it is believed claims 18, 26, 29 and 32 also define subject matter which is patentable over the cited references, with particular attention to Parman. In view of these amendments,

claims 17, 18, 26, 29 and 32 are believed to patentably define over the references, and are allowable along with dependent claims 3-5, 16, 30, 31 and 33-38.

Claims 39 and 40 are added to round out the scope of coverage sought by applicant and to which applicant is believed to be entitled. Claim 39 is directed to the structure of the nipples, and includes language as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from claim 39. Claim 40 has been added to include language specifying the flexible rearwardly extending projections along the lines suggested by the Examiner, which are not shown or suggested by the prior art.

Applicant's attorney has made every effort to place the application into condition for allowance with claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15-18 and 26-40, and such action is earnestly requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by phone if questions remain after consideration of this response, or if such would otherwise facilitate prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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